

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): A plasmid containing a tightly regulated promoter, wherein said promoter is operatively linked to an isolated and purified DNA sequence that encodes a peptidoglycan-associated lipoprotein (recombinant PAL) of gram-negative bacteria, wherein the promoter is an arabinose inducible promoter.

Claim 2 (Original): The plasmid of Claim 1 wherein the PAL is the P6 protein of *Haemophilus influenzae* (*H. influenzae*).

Claim 3 (Canceled)

Claim 4 (Canceled)

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The plasmid of Claim 1 wherein the plasmid is designated pPX4020.

Claim 6 (Canceled)

Claim 7 (Canceled)

Claim 8 (Original): A bacterial host cell transformed, transduced or transfected with the plasmid of Claim 1.

Claims 9-17 (Cancelled)

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): A plasmid containing a ~~tightly regulated promoter consisting of a~~ T7 promoter, wherein said T7 promoter is operatively linked to an isolated and purified DNA sequence that encodes the P6 protein of *H. influenzae* (recombinant P6), wherein the recombinant P6 is under the control of only the T7 promoter.

Claim 19 (Canceled)

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The plasmid of Claim 18 wherein the plasmid is designated pPX4019.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): A bacterial host cell transformed, transduced or transfected with the plasmid of Claim 18.

Claim 22 (Canceled)